Bhawan, New Delhi to issue a passport to an applicant;

(b) whether one of the general reasons given by the Regional Passport office for the delay in issuing a passport is said to be the delay in receipt of police reports;

(c) whether any cases of loss of police reports after their receipt in the said office have also come to notice;

(d) whether there have been any complaints about the issuance of passports where the expiry dates maked on the passports happened to be earlier than the issuing dates; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and what procedure is adopted for setting right such passports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) In the normal course it takes 60 to 65 days to issue a passport at Regional Office, Delhi.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) No such complaint has come to Government's notice. It is, however, possible that clerical errors of this nature might occur, in which case the passport office concerned would correct the entry when the matter is brought to its attention.

Training for Arm and Ammunition in Afghanistan

4135. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of followers of Hizbul Mujahideens are receiving training in handling arms and ammunition in Afghanistan;

(b) whether Government drew the attention of Afghanistan Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government; and

(d) steps being taken to assist the Afghan Government?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Government are aware that Pakistan has arranged training facilities for Kashmiri militants in locations within Afghanistan.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) and (d) The Afghan authorities have stated categorically that the Afghan Government is not involved in any assistance being provided to Kashmiri militants.

Visit of British and US Home Secretaries

4136. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the British Home Secretary and US Home Secretary have visited India recently;

(b) if so, the issues discussed during their visit; and

outcome of the discussions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) The British Home Secretary visited India recently.

(b) Detailed discussions were held on various bilateral issues such as combating terrorism, drug trafficking, follow up action on Extradition Treaty, Confiscation Agreement and immigration matters.

(c) Both sides agree to cooperate closely in combating terrorism and drug trafficking.